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Period 4

New Deal Essay

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FDR’s “New Deal”

When most people think of Franklin D. Roosevelt, they think of his success of getting the United States out of the great depression. Many think he was a hero in doing so, some say he took it too far and didn’t quite live up to the hype he created. The defining political policies of Roosevelt were the “New Deal” legislation acts aimed towards getting the country out of a huge slump. This, new deal, was aimed at achieving three goals; relief, recovery, and reform. These were the three main aspects of the country’s problem, FDR was taking the depression on head first, “the only thing we have to fear, is fear itself” he once said inspiring many. With the country and Congress in panic, it wasn’t hard to get the new organizations up and running in a short amount of time.

To begin the process, FDR closed the banks and introduced the emergency banking relief act. The government inspected the banks and only those that were stable were allowed back open. This slowed things down and enabled the country to “catch up with itself” giving him control of banking transactions and foreign exchange. The CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) came soon after, supplying jobs to over three million young men fixing up parks and making the country a better place, supervised by the U.S army. The Agricultural Adjustment act and the Tennessee Valley act supplied some much needed reforms in the United States as well. The National Recovery Administration created a huge boost in the industrial world at the time. American labor was increased and improved with the promotion of the Wagner Act (National Labor Relations Board), this enabled the federal government the arbiter of employer-employee relations. This is the most important piece of labor legislation enacted in U.S history. These, are simply a few of the great acts passed to create a better country.

The New Deal programs were supposed to bring “three *R’*s”.  These three *R*’s are relief, recovery, and reform. Many of the acts that were passed during the hundred days were based on beliefs of the progressive movement.  Some of these progressive ideas were: unemployment insurance, old-age insurance, minimum- wage regulations, conservation and development of natural resources, and restrictions on child labor. Between 1933 and 1939, many organizations arose to fill in the hole that was created.

Some say FDR was wrong in launching the New Deal saying it was a risk not worth taking. There were many, many organizations passed. But not all were a great success. Some however, did hit the bull’s-eye in helping to turn this country around. Although the New Deal didn’t directly put the country in great economic shape, it was followed up by World War II, which ultimately put the United States where it needed to be. In the end, most would say the new deal did it’s job pretty well in terms of reform, relief, and recovery. Relief was fulfilled through the Federal Emergency Relief Association (FERA), Farm Credit Association (FCA), and many like these. Recovery was improved through Abandonment of Gold Standard, the Federal Security Act (FSA), the Recovery Administration (NRA), and many more. Finally, reform was improved with the Glass/Steagall Act, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), and other acts of improvement. These are just a handful of organizations that fulfilled the goal of reform, relief, and recovery.